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EXAMINER

VIG, NARESH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/463,225

Applicant(s)

SCHWARTZ ET AL.

Examiner

Naresh Vig

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to the response to the office action mailed on 07 July 2002 received by the office on 15 October 2002. Addition of 12 new claims 5 – 20 are acknowledged. There are 20 claims pending for examination.

Response to Arguments

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Applicant's invention relates to printing of postage stamps with use of television technology. Gerszberg discloses systems and method of using television technology and discloses that Gerszberg invention can be used for ordering the product directly from the manufacturer or distributor through a requisition request (FIG. 5). Gerszberg does not disclose to limit the type of users for the invention. In addition, Gerszberg discloses that the user may select any number of services on the video phone and/or other user interface such as a cable set-top device. These services may include any

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number of suitable services such as weather, headlines in the news, stock quotes, neighborhood community services information, ticket information, restaurant information, service directories (e.g., yellow pages), call conferencing, billing systems, mailing systems, coupons advertisements, maps, classes, Internet, pay-per-view (PPV), and/or other services using any suitable user interface such as the audio interface, the video phone/user interface, digital phones, and/or another suitable device such as a settop device (col. 5, lines 12 – 38). Therefore, the user of the Gerszberg invention can be a postal authority selling the postage indicia (product).

In addition, Moore discloses that there are approximately 1.5 million postage meters in use in the united States alone, which collectively account for approximately \$20 billion in postal revenue annually. These meters affix a mark to mailpieces, and are designed to tabulate and record the amount of postage fee disbursed. Such meters are made by several vendors (col. 1, lines 54 – 60). "Customer" can also be a PC-based "home office" equipped with a postal security device (PSD), encryption software, and a standard PC operated printer (col. 7, lines 14 – 17). Each host computer is controlled by a single user or "customer" of the service, which can be located anywhere within the United States or even abroad. Each host computer cooperates with the control computer through a postal security device (PSD). Each host computer controls one or more indicia printers. (col. 10, lines 30 – 52).

To determine the date for the web pages printed through www.archive.org, applicant can refer to the URL. Date format is in YYYYMMDD format.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 – 5, 7, 10 – 11, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore US Patent 5,917,925 in view of Gerszberg et al. US Patent 6,178,446 hereinafter known as Gerszberg.

Regarding claims 1 – 4, Moore disclose a system and method for marking mailpieces for postal fee and tracking purposes. A central control computer under the control of a postal service enables the system. Host computers under the control of customers and the postal service are used to control and audit the printing of indicia marks on mailpieces. Each host computer controls one or more indicia printers. Accounting/security systems are also provided within the system. The indicia printer marks the mail pieces with an encoded mark indicating first that the proper postal fee has been paid in order to "mail" the mail piece. Mailpieces can be scanned with remote field readers at any step in the mail distribution process, thereby providing information to the postal service and to the customers. Real time analysis of the scanned indicia marks is used to reduce problems associated with counterfeiting of mailpiece indicia

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and mailpiece diversion. Information security is provided so that proprietary information of the postal service and the users of the system is maintained at all times. Moore system and method relates to an authenticating, anti-counterfeiting, and tracking system. Moore system marks the postage which is a substitute for a postage stamp or a prior art postage meter imprint as evidence of the fact that postage has been paid on mailpieces. The system is directed toward marking, tracking, and postal fee collection of mailpieces, and can be used to authenticate and track a wide variety of goods and articles of manufacture. The Moore system includes a control computer, one or more host computers (with one host computer generally being under the control of one customer) which cooperate with the control computer, a marking system, and a field reader system, which are all compatible and can be physically linked via data transmission links. Each host computer is isolated from the control computer by a postal security device. The control computer creates each indicium using data provided by the postal security device and the customer, supports communication with the vendor's infrastructure, provides customer interface, employs current postage rates, supports the use of standard mailing addresses, and maintains records regarding host system use. Each host computer stores the specific, selected information conveyed by the indicia mark which is 'customer specific', and directs the indicia printer to imprint the mark on the mail piece, and also receives and processes information from the reading system. Alternately, the indicia printer can imprint the mark on an item which is subsequently attached permanently to the mailpiece, such as a gummed paper indicia mark akin to current postage stamps. Each host computer is connected via modem and through a

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postal security device to coordinate, receive, and respond to commands sent and received from the control computer, one or more indicia printer terminals, and one or more reading terminal.

In operation, the control computer contacts a host computer through a postal security device enigma card and enables a specific amount of postage fee, preferably equal to a prepaid amount. The host computer establishes an appropriate identifying message using clear text, such as the amount of "postage" to be imprinted as an indicium on a mailpiece based upon current postal rates, the weight of the piece, the destination of the piece, and the like. The host interfaces with an encryption unit which converts the clear text message into a two dimensional matrix symbol indicia. The host then downloads the digital symbol to the CPU controlling the indicia printer. The host preferably establishes marker start/stop serialized codes and specific times the indicia printer or printers can be in operation in order to discourage unauthorized usage. (see abstract; col.1, lines 14 – 19; col. 3, line 58 – col. 4, line 8; col. 5, lines 12 – 63; col. 13, line 11 – col. 14, line 4).

Moore discloses Host computer communicating with Encryption Unit (FIG. 1b). The control computer provides an allotment of postage to the host computer. This communication is carried out via corresponding postal security device enigma cards which are located in the respective host computers. Once each host computer has received an allotment of postage, it is able to enable indicia printer or printers to imprint indicia on the articles or mailpieces as specified. Each host computer interfaces with the encryption unit (central control device) to generate a data matrix symbology which

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includes specified information that the customer selects represented by indicia (col. 6, lines 39 – 61). Each host computer controls one or more indicia printers (col. 10, lines 30 – 22). In this setup, host computer becomes a central computer with the PSD and plurality of printers are managed by the host computer.

Also, Moore discloses to have accounting means. Moore states that at the conclusion of the marking cycle, the printer CPU uploads a print count to the host. Two pricing accounting/security systems are also provided within the system. First, the control computer enables the host by providing an allotment of marks or fees, and tracks the number of marks allotted to the host computer. Second, the host computer allots a prescribed number of marks to the marker and thereby enables the marker to affix marks on the goods or materials. In addition, the host tracks the activity of the markers and counts the marks made at the marking locations (col. 13, line 63 – col. 14, line 4). The indicia can be imprinted directly on the mailpiece or, alternately, can be imprinted on a fixture which is affixed to the mailpiece. Gummed paper labels are examples of such affixed fixtures (col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 5).

Moore does not disclose customer requesting a postal indicium. However, Moore discloses that controlled and specified amount of postage can be printed as indicia marks with final "mailing" address (specified by the customer) at a given mail room. Also, Host computers under the control of customers and the postal service are used to control and audit the printing of indicia marks on mailpieces. Gerszberg discloses system and method where a subscriber (customer) to a service will have the ability to order or request additional information on products that are being advertised (interactive

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commercials). A subscriber to the service will have the ability to order or request additional information on products that are being advertised. "Commercials are regularly displayed on a display device such as a video telephone or a television which is attached to a set top device. The subscriber to the service upon viewing a commercial on a display device can click on the advertisement to alert the advertiser that the customer is interested in the item that is being advertised. "Such interest may include, receiving an information pamphlet, receiving a coupon and ordering the product directly from the manufacturer or distributor through a requisition request". The actuation means can be a remote control device (or a touch screen) which sends signals to the set top device so as to create a subscriber request with respect to the commercial being displayed. Once a subscriber request has been created, the request is transmitted to the communication server, the communication server decodes the subscriber request message to determine the subscriber's identity and the action requested by the subscriber, a message is sent to the subscriber unit and then the requested information displayed on the display (the requested information can include coupons which can be either printed by a printer or stored on a smart card). (see abstract; col.2, lines 42 – 49; col. 8, line 59 – col. 9, line 26; col. 35, lines 35 – 58). Therefore, it is known at the time of applicant's invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to modify Moore as taught by Gerszberg and have the customer request the postal indicium to have the correct amount of postage applied to the mail to avoid return of mail due to insufficient postage (for example, the mail can be international for which the postage rate is different).

In addition, Moore does not disclose providing the information over the fax machine. Gerszberg discloses that the commercials are sent to the display device over the telephone network and are displayed on the display device. It is known at the time of applicants invention that fax machines have a printing mechanism to print the information received, and also, faxes can be received in the computer (fax modem in a computer device) and viewed on a computer display prior to printing. Also, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art the computer systems are capable of sending the print information to a fax machine. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art send the information to a printing device like a fax machine (readily available at the time of invention and used by the business to receive documents) to control the transmission of information (one to one communication), save on hardware cost by using the fax machine as a printer etc.

Regarding claim 5, Moore discloses host system (controlling computer) is remotely located from customer station (host computer). (see FIG 1a and 1b).

Regarding claim 7, Moore does not disclose to have customer address. Geszberg discloses that if the subscriber wishes to purchase a product, the communication server then determines whether the subscriber is in a financial database which can contain credit information or bank account information for direct debit

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processing of the purchase and shipping address. It is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art the US addresses include zip code. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to have customer address to determine where to mail the product, mail bills etc.

Regarding claim 10, Moore discloses that each host computer controls one or more indicia printers (one host computer is shared with plurality of printers). (col. 10, lines 30 – 22).

Regarding claim 11, Moore discloses that marks for products include final point of sale, and associated financial documents can include account number, sequential identifying numbers, and the like. All such information i.e., input data, encoded entries, and the marks, are stored in mass storage devices for later use in goods verification/authentication, tracking, and/or counterfeit detection.

Regarding claim 15, Moore discloses that connection can also be accomplished by making the system an integral part of local and wide area networks (LANs and WANs), or even the Internet (col. 11, lines 39 – 41).

Regarding 17, Moore does not disclose interface to television. Gerszberg discloses that a subscriber unit is provided as a set top device which is attached to a television. The set top device is also connected to a phone line and can also be connected to a cable TV, a direct TV satellite, etc. Therefore, it is known at the time on invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art that set-top boxes can be connected to the television to use a commonly available household item as a display device to display the information. The indicia printer can imprint the mark on an item which is subsequently attached permanently to the mailpiece, such as a gummed paper indicia mark akin to current postage stamps.

Claim 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore US Patent 5,917,925 in view of Gerszberg et al. US Patent 6,178,446 hereinafter known as Gerszberg in further view of Bush US Patent 5,475,585.

Regarding claim 6, neither Moore nor Gerszberg disclose to display menu. Bush discloses a transactional processing system is used in conjunction with a transmitting source. Bush invention The present comprises a transmitting source, a receiver and a transaction processor. The Source broadcasts one or many menus over a transmission channel, e.g., a T.V. cable channel. The consumer would have a wide variety of options

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to choose from the menu, depending on the available services provided by the source.

The menu received by the customer could list many different products or services available to pay for, for example; (1) paying for cable bill; (2) paying utility bills; (3) paying bills for merchandise purchased; (4) purchasing entertainment, concert or sporting event tickets; (6) purchasing from any mail order catalog; (7) donating to fund raising events (col. 1, lines 56 – 67). Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to provide menu of selection to the user to guide the user to make selections, provide information, make the system user-friendly etc.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore US Patent 5,917,925 in view of Gerszberg et al. US Patent 6,178,446 hereinafter known as Gerszberg in further view of Ryan Jr. US Patent 6,173,274.

Regarding claim 8, neither Moore nor Gerszberg disclose to print human readable information on the indicia. Ryan Jr. discloses production mail system for producing mailpieces. Ryan Jr. discloses to print human readable information on the indicia (FIG. 3). Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to imprint human readable identifier on the indicia to identify the postage applied, date the postage is applied, other identifying information etc.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore US Patent 5,917,925 in view of Gerszberg et al. US Patent 6,178,446 hereinafter known as Gerszberg in further view of Reisinger et al. US Patent 6,064,991 hereinafter known as Reisinger.

Regarding claim 9, neither Moore nor Geszberg disclose weigh scale coupled to the postage indicia device. Reisinger discloses an interchangeable postage calculating module and a corresponding method for data transmission to a basic device such as a postage meter machine or a scale allow a high degree of flexibility in accommodating future changes in postage calculation formats and techniques. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to attach weighing scale to the postage indicia device to minimize postage fraud by providing the weight input directly into the device for calculating the postage.

Claim 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore US Patent 5,917,925 in view of Gerszberg et al. US Patent 6,178,446 hereinafter known as Gerszberg in further view of Merjanian US Patent 6,064,991.

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Regarding claim 12, neither Moore nor Gerszberg disclose fingerprint reader. Mejanian disclose a method for commerce through a set-top box in which fingerprint data is employed. After prompting an operator to make a purchase through the set-top box the operator provides fingerprint data to the set-top box. Account information of the operator is also obtained and conveyed to a remote location. The fingerprint data is compared to stored fingerprint data of the operator, and, in the event that the fingerprint data provided to the set-top box matches the stored fingerprint data (authenticate), the operator's account is billed for any purchases that are made (abstract). Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to use fingerprint reader for authentication to further protect the device from unauthorized use due to the stolen identification password / code.

Claim 13, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore US Patent 5,917,925 in view of Gerszberg et al. US Patent 6,178,446 hereinafter known as Gerszberg in further view of Schwartz et al. US Patent 5,841,076 hereinafter known as Schwartz and internet travel reservation provider Expedia (www.expedia.com) hereinafter known as Expedia.

Regarding claims 13, 14 and 16, neither Moore nor Gerszberg disclose the system to provide service from plurality of delivery service providers. However, Schwartz discloses a postage scale system in which soft-selection keys are used for

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selecting options including shipping service options provided by the system. The display on such a system is adjustable for comfortable viewing thereof. The system is capable of interfacing and communicating with other devices such as a printer, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit (IC) card, etc. Certain data and code for use in the system can be updated by downloading new data and code from IC cards to the system (abstract). Schwartz discloses that its system allows selection for services from plurality of service providers like RPS, Federal Express, USPS, UPS etc. (FIG. 13). Schwartz discloses that the rate schedule data is stored in the rate module of the flash EEPROM. Whenever there is a change in the postage rates, shipping charges, or other cost factors, the data in that particular module will be overwritten with new data. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art that a postage dispensing can be adapted to order service from plurality of delivery service providers to meet customers postage requirements. For Example, UPS has a weight limit for the individual package, the customer may have to ship that package using services from RPS or Emery Worldwide etc.

Neither Moore, Gerszberg nor Schwartz disclose communicatively linked to plurality of service providers. However, Expedia discloses a travel reservation systems which allows users to make travel arrangements over the internet. Customers can compare prices and flight schedule prior to making a reservation. Expedia discloses that it cannot provide prices from all the airlines because it can show information only from the airlines who participate in the system (displays information only from associated airlines, page 8). Therefore, it is obvious that Expedia is communicatively connected

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with the participating airlines. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to communicatively connect with the service providers to provide up to date information and prices for their customers. For example, Expedia discloses that it uses real-time reservation database, and, as airlines fill flights or change fares, the database immediately reflect those changes (page 17).

Regarding claim 16, neither Moore nor Gerszberg disclose to be single point of contact between customer and service providers. Expedia discloses that customers can make reservation using plurality of airlines (service providers). Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to be single point of contact to become a total service provider by providing one stop service to their customers.

Claim 18 – 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore US Patent 5,917,925 in view of Gerszberg et al. US Patent 6,178,446 hereinafter known as Gerszberg in further view of Schwartz et al. US Patent 5,841,076 hereinafter known as Schwartz, Brookner et al. US Patent 6,009,417 hereinafter known as Brookner and internet travel reservation provider Expedia (www.expedia.com) hereinafter known as Expedia.

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Regarding claim 18 – 20, Moore disclose a system and method for marking mailpieces for postal fee and tracking purposes.

Moore discloses Host computer communicating with Encryption Unit (FIG. 1b). The control computer provides an allotment of postage to the host computer. This communication is carried out via corresponding postal security device enigma cards which are located in the respective host computers. Once each host computer has received an allotment of postage, it is able to enable indicia printer or printers to imprint indicia on the articles or mailpieces as specified. Each host computer interfaces with the encryption unit (central control device) to generate a data matrix symbology which includes specified information that the customer selects represented by indicia (col. 6, lines 39 – 61). Each host computer controls one or more indicia printers (col. 10, lines 30 – 22). In this setup, host computer becomes a central computer with the PSD and plurality of printers (multiple locations) are managed by the host computer. Gummed paper labels are examples of such affixed fixtures (col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 5).

Moore discloses Host computer communicating with Encryption Unit (FIG. 1b). The control computer provides an allotment of postage to the host computer. Moore does not disclose interfacing with television system. Gerszberg discloses a subscriber unit provided as a set top device which is attached to a television. The set top device is also connected to a phone line and can also be connected to a cable TV, a direct TV satellite, etc. Therefore, it is known at the time on invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art that set-top boxes can be connected to the television to use a commonly available household item as a display device to display the information. The indicia

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printer can imprint the mark on an item which is subsequently attached permanently to the mailpiece, such as a gummed paper indicia mark akin to current postage stamps.

Moore discloses to have accounting means. Moore states that at the conclusion of the marking cycle, the printer CPU uploads a print count to the host. Two pricing accounting/security systems are also provided within the system. First, the control computer enables the host by providing an allotment of marks or fees, and tracks the number of marks allotted to the host computer. Second, the host computer allots a prescribed number of marks to the marker and thereby enables the marker to affix marks on the goods or materials. In addition, the host tracks the activity of the markers and counts the marks made at the marking locations (plurality of printer locations, col. 13, line 63 – col. 14, line 4). The indicia can be imprinted directly on the mailpiece or, alternately, can be imprinted on a fixture which is affixed to the mailpiece. Gummed paper labels are examples of such affixed fixtures (col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 5). In addition, Brookner discloses system and method which uses 1 Postal Security Device and is connected to plurality of computers and printers (FIG. 9B).

Moore does not disclose customer requesting a postal indicium. However, Moore discloses that controlled and specified amount of postage can be printed as indicia marks with final "mailing" address (specified by the customer) at a given mail room. Also, Host computers under the control of customers and the postal service are used to control and audit the printing of indicia marks on mailpieces. Gerszberg discloses system and method where a subscriber (customer) to a service will have the ability to place an order or request additional information on products that are being advertised

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(interactive commercials). The actuation means can be a remote control device (or a touch screen) which sends signals to the set top device so as to create a subscriber request with respect to the commercial being displayed. Once a subscriber request has been created, the request is transmitted to the communication server, the communication server decodes the subscriber request message to determine the subscriber's identity and the action requested by the subscriber, a message is sent to the subscriber unit and then the requested information displayed on the display (the requested information can include coupons which can be either printed by a printer or stored on a smart card). (see abstract; col.2, lines 42 – 49; col. 8, line 59 – col. 9, line 26; col. 35, lines 35 – 58). Therefore, it is known at the time of applicant's invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to have the customer request the postal indicium to the customer to have the correct amount of postage applied to the mail to avoid return of mail due to insufficient postage (for example, the mail can be international for which the postage rate is different).

Neither Moore nor Gerszberg disclose to display menu. Bush discloses a transactional processing system is used in conjunction with a transmitting source. Bush invention The present comprises a transmitting source, a receiver and a transaction processor. The Source broadcasts one or many menus over a transmission channel, e.g., a T.V. cable channel. The consumer would have a wide variety of options to choose from the menu, depending on the available services provided by the source. The menu received by the customer could list many different products or services available to pay for, for example; (1) paying for cable bill; (2) paying utility bills; (3)

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paying bills for merchandise purchased; (4) purchasing entertainment, concert or sporting event tickets; (6) purchasing from any mail order catalog; (7) donating to fund raising events (col. 1, lines 56 – 67). Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to provide menu of selection to the user to guide the user to make selections, provide information, make the system user-friendly etc.

Neither Moore nor Gerszberg disclose the system to provide service from plurality of delivery service providers. However, Schwartz discloses a postage scale system in which soft-selection keys are used for selecting options including shipping service options provided by the system. The display on such a system is adjustable for comfortable viewing thereof. The system is capable of interfacing and communicating with other devices such as a printer, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit (IC) card, etc. Certain data and code for use in the system can be updated by downloading new data and code from IC cards to the system (abstract). Schwartz discloses that its system allows selection for services from plurality of service providers like RPS, Federal Express, USPS, UPS etc. (FIG. 13). Schwartz discloses that the rate schedule data is stored in the rate module of the flash EEPROM. Whenever there is a change in the postage rates, shipping charges, or other cost factors, the data in that particular module will be overwritten with new data. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art that a postage dispensing can be adapted to order service from plurality of delivery service providers to meet customers postage requirements. For Example, UPS has a weight limit for the

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individual package, the customer may have to ship that package using services from RPS or Emery Worldwide etc.

Neither Moore, Gerszberg nor Schwartz disclose communicatively linked to plurality of service providers, and, solicit for quotes for the customer. However, Expedia discloses a travel reservation systems which allows users to make travel arrangements over the internet. Customers can compare prices and flight schedule prior to making a reservation. Expedia discloses that it cannot provide prices from all the airlines because it can show information only from the airlines who participate in the system (displays information only from associated airlines, page 8). Therefore, it is obvious that Expedia is communicatively connected with the participating airlines. Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to communicatively connected with the service providers and solicit of quotes for the user to provide up to date information and prices for their customers. For example, Expedia discloses that it uses real-time reservation database, and, as airlines fill flights or change fares, the database immediately reflect those changes (page 17).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Van Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752
2. Trevitt et al. US Patent 6,134,531
3. Cordery et al. US Patent 6,466,921

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is 703.305.3372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 5:00 (Alt Friday off).

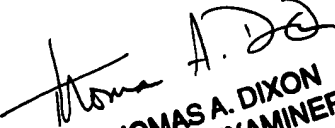
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703.308.2702. The fax phone numbers for

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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.305.7687 for regular communications and 703.305.7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.

December 19, 2002


THOMAS A. DIXON
PRIMARY EXAMINER